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is discussed at length and its chief errors pointed out ; especially the failure of the general property tax in securing uniformity of assessment, — it ranges 33 per cent of the actual value in the country districts to 70 per cent. in the city of St. Louis, — and the worse than failure of the personal property tax, which by reason of the ease and frequency with which it is evaded puts a premium on dishonesty. In discussing taxation of the future the author lays great stress upon the taxation of franchises, and refers with approval to the recently adopted franchise tax law of New York. He hopes for a more equitable system of assessment of real estate, and the abolition of such inquisitorial taxes as those on personal property and personal incomes. His discussion of the subject is adequate, and his conclusions seem sound. The book should prove valuable to all who are interested in the subject.

**HAND BOOK OF FIRE INSURANCE.** By Frank R. Fairweather. With articles on the Duties of Agents and Sub-Agents and a Digest of the Fire Insurance Cases of the Maritime Provinces of Canada. By Reginald R. Fairweather, B. C. L. St. John : The Globe Publishing Co., Ltd. 1900. pp. v, 208. The authors in this book have given us a valuable addition to the various insurance publications. The work, while not exclusively a legal one, will be found of considerable worth by lawyers, as to every lawyer handling insurance business a practical knowledge of the methods and requirements of insurance companies and the nature of the risks assumed is essential. The authors have very satisfactorily treated this non-legal portion of the work, bringing out the salient points clearly yet concisely. The subject of the Duties of Agents and Sub-Agents is ably handled, and the chapters devoted to Parol Agreements and Forms of Policies are well worth perusal. But perhaps the chief value of the book to members of the legal profession is the admirable Digest of the Maritime Provinces Insurance Cases and Appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada. These cases are very fully digested and the points decided distinctly stated. The book, while of especial importance to Canadians, is not without interest in this country, as the Canadian courts are recognized as furnishing us with many of the most noteworthy cases on insurance law. The authors' style is good, the arrangement excellent, and the book is singularly readable.

**OUTLINE STUDY OF LAW.** By Isaac Franklin Russell. Third edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1900. pp. xix, 344. It is not surprising that the demand for Professor Russell's book should have justified a third edition, and this in spite of the fact that the work is open to some criticism. It is not strictly a text-book, but aims to give in brief compass an outline of the whole field of law. The scope is very broad, including even international law, constitutional interpretation, and questions of national polity. The necessity for extreme brevity makes it impossible to develop and qualify general principles, explain definitions, and indicate the application of broad rules to particular cases sufficiently to make the book of much value to either lawyers or students who wish to find out what the law is on particular points. And when due allowance has been made for the difficulty of adequate presentation in so narrow a space, some statements seem unnecessarily vague or even misleading. In spite of these objections, however, the layman or the beginner, desirous of knowing what the law is like, will find the book both helpful and

interesting ; and this is the purpose which the author seems to have had primarily in mind.

**A BRIEF FOR THE TRIAL OF CIVIL ISSUES BEFORE A JURY.** By Austin Abbott. Second and enlarged edition by the publishers' editorial staff. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Coöperative Publishing Co. 1900. pp. xiii, 603. This volume the publishers have seen fit to call a second edition of Mr. Abbott's work. But the title is a misnomer, so extensive has been the enlargement. While the original text has been substantially retained, there is unfortunately nothing to indicate where the additions have been made. This is not only unfair to its learned author, but also cannot fail to lessen its value to the reader, as Mr. Abbott's work had special merit in that it was prepared from the actual trial briefs of a careful lawyer, an advantage wanting in the work of his editors. The number of cases cited has been greatly increased with a view to use in any jurisdiction. The total omission of important English cases, however, is to be regretted, for certainly they are still of value in modern American practice. A good general index is provided, but a list of the cases cited is dispensed with. On the whole, the book will no doubt find a place as a suggestive book of reference, although it is of no great worth as an authority.

**THE LAW OF BILLS, NOTES, AND CHEQUES.** By Melville M. Bigelow, Ph. D. Second edition. Boston : Little, Brown & Co. 1900. pp. xxxi, 349. In this edition of Mr. Bigelow's valuable work the text has been largely rewritten. The opening discussion of the Law Merchant has been much expanded, and several new chapters have been added throughout the work. Numerous recent authorities are cited, and much valuable new matter is furnished by voluminous footnotes. Corrections have here and there been made in the text — for instance, in his first edition Mr. Bigelow stated *Price v. Neal* to be overruled ; but in the present edition he acknowledges it to be generally law for the precise point decided. What greatly increases the value of the book to Americans is the substitution in the appendix of the New York Negotiable Instruments Law for the English Bills of Exchange Act, and the constant reference made to this statute throughout the text. Too much can hardly be said in favor of this edition. It furnishes us with a readable and yet concise treatment of an extremely technical subject.

**THE LAW IN ITS RELATION TO PHYSICIANS.** By Arthur N. Taylor. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1900. pp. iv, 550. The object of this work is to place within the reach of every physician a systematic treatment of those questions of law which present themselves most frequently in his ordinary professional work. The author seems to have done his work with considerable thoroughness. The main principles are fully discussed and the proper rules clearly laid down. Both the approved doctrine and the peculiar constructions adopted in the various states are illustrated by cases. Leading decisions are treated at length, and the notes contain several hundred references to cases and statutes. The book is written in an interesting style, and is so clear in its treatment that it may be easily understood by non-legal readers. While it is principally of value as a handbook for the physician, to afford him reliable information as to his legal rights and liabilities, it will also prove useful to the lawyer who